

FOCUS

SCHENECTADY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY NEWS

Volume 81

January 2012

Number 5

Dancing With Light

by Jonathan Villegas

Jonathan, a current graduate student at The College of Saint Rose, has been attempting to integrate two worlds he feels comfortable with into one; movement, and photography. On **January 11** he will share his experience of trying to capture movements with photography by using lights and his body, and how photography, drawing, and dance influenced the work. What is left for the viewer is the markings the light has created from Jonathan's presence space.

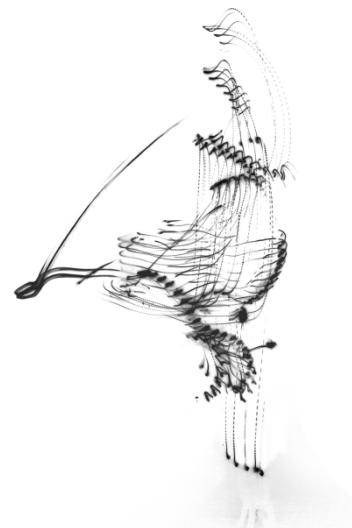
[Bio on page 3]



© Jonathan Villegas

January Calendar

Date	Competition	Program
Wed. Jan 4	Print: The Sound of Music : An image depicting some aspect of music.	Gary & Marion Silber: Excellence is in the Details - Group Posing (video series)
Wed. Jan 11	Projected: KISS - As in "Keep It Simple Stupid", the zen of sparse elegance.	Jonathan Villegas: Dancing with the Light
Wed. Jan 18		Emma Dodge Hanson : Five Elements of a Perfect Portrait
Wed. Jan 25	<i>Mentoring</i>	Connie Frisbee Houde & Jim Craner: "Constructing a Photo Essay"



January Print Night

"Excellence is in the Details" - Group Posing

This month's short topic will provide insight into some of the techniques used by professional working photographers to create timeless and elegant fine art portraiture.

As part of a nationally distributed DVD teaching series, Gary and Marion Silber demonstrate how they position multiple subjects to create a successful portrait. They will also address the small details that can improve the level and quality of one's portraiture work. Irrespective of whether you use studio or window light you can incorporate these techniques to achieve impressive results.


Bio: Marion and Gary Silber have distinguished themselves as one of the premier couples working together today in the field of fine, photographic portraiture. Their work is inspired by their love of fine art and the great portrait painters of the past and present. Blending drama and timelessness with warmth and emotion, their portraits truly have a look of their own and are known for the artistic impact they add to a room. Many people say they can tell a Marion and Gary Silber portrait, even before they see the signature. Their look is both bold and elegant.

Marion is a life-long resident of Jackson, MS. She studied art and photography at the University of Southern Mississippi, and entered the field of portraiture in the mid-1970's. She opened her first studio in 1977 and became especially well known for her sensitive portraits of children, babies and mothers and babies. She has lectured and taught her approach to photography across the country and in Puerto Rico, as well as having been featured on teaching videos for Eastman Kodak Company and PhotoVision, a nationally distributed DVD teaching series. She has earned both Master of Photography and Photographic Craftsman degrees from the Professional Photographers of America. She is highly regarded not only for her artistry with a camera, but her warmth, humor and great charm with people.

Gary Silber grew up in Chicago, Illinois and studied art, photography and the fine arts at the University of Iowa. He entered the field of portrait photography in 1979, apprenticing with one of Wisconsin's most accomplished Master photographers.

[Continued on page 3]

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SPS's **First Ever Smart Phone Competition** will take place on Grab Bag night, March 28th, 2012. The rules:

- It has to be a phone with a camera;
- All editing must be done in the phone;
- There is no limit to what Apps you use;
- Use a computer only to resize images as per Projected guidelines and upload to the SPS site;
- Three images per entrant in any category;
- Uploading begins Feb.29; ends midnight March 25.

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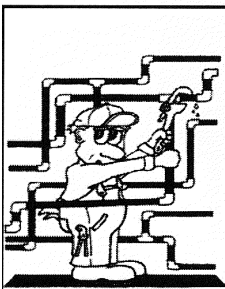
Member Profile: Robert Wright

Robert Wright has a congenital condition called holoprosencephaly, whereby the brain development goes awry sometime in the first six weeks of conception. Instead of balanced hemispheres, Robert's brain resembles an overflowed muffin. The pragmatic result is that he is challenged with a body that does not easily do what he wants. It will not walk, talk or even allow him to reach for things without significant effort and time.

Robert's story however is not one disability and impairment, but the story of a young man that enjoys life and in particular photography. In 2006, while perusing a book about occupations, Robert indicated he wanted to photograph animals. A point and shoot camera (later replaced by a Canon Rebel Tsi) which is activated by a remote head switch, was purchased and his photography journey began.

At Mohonasen High School, he met Rick Crowe, a photographer, who has tutored Robert in photography on a volunteer basis. Together, they selected a number of photos for an exhibit. In June 2008, Robert had a photography exhibit at the library of Mohonasen High School.

[Continued on page 5]



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Jonathan Villegas *[Continued from page 1]*

Bio: Jonathan was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, and arrived to Ellenville, N.Y as an eight year old. Early in his childhood he joined a professional dance company, The Figures in Flight Dance Company, where for nine years he performed all through out New York State. After graduating high school, Jonathan attended Ulster County Community College where he realized he wanted to become an art educator. He attended Alfred University where he received his B.F.A., and is now pursuing the MS.Ed. at The College of Saint Rose while continuing his practice in photography.

Gary Silber *[Continued from page 2]*

He quickly earned both the Master of Photography degree and the Photographic Craftsman degree for his artistic accomplishments and teaching across the country, as well as Mexico, England and Northern Ireland. He has appeared in many editions of PhotoVision, a teaching series on DVD for the portrait profession.

Gary brings many different talents to his work as a portrait photographer. He calls on his skills as a photographer, portraitist, framer, designer, decorator and digital artist to create the striking portraits and striking installations he and Marion create together.

After over ten years of working of on their own in separate studios, Marion and Gary married in 1990 and became known as Marion and Silber Fine Portraiture, and choose to do most of their work as a dedicated, artistic team. Their work hangs in beautiful homes across Mississippi, the South and in lovely homes across the country. Dedicated to the art of portraiture, their clients and each other, Marion and Gary start, this year, their third decade of working together and creating their timeless, elegant portraiture and framing.



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Robert Wright [Continued from page 3]

Through that show, Kevin Sarsfield noticed Robert, and Kevin mentioned the Schenectady Photographic Society. In the fall of 2008, Robert began coming to the meetings and much later began to enter competitions. The anonymity of the judging of pictures assures objectivity regarding his images as opposed to bias for the sympathy vote. The critiques of his work helps him to improve, and frequently, the advice is more for his assistants that prepare his work, rather than Robert's participation in the process.

The Schenectady Photographic Society is educating Robert and his assistants, to improve his work and in turn to clarify his message in his images. The friends he has made at SPS are the extra bonus that makes Wednesday nights so special to Robert.

Robert has shown his work at the annual NYS Association of the Board of Visitors' Conference when it was held in Buffalo NY. The Association actually contacted his family to have him exhibit his work at subsequent conferences. A few of pictures would have been sold, but his assistant insisted he give them away.

Photography is a particularly, important means of communication for Robert. For his art exhibition at Mohonasen, he chose and included an image of a curb that he had shot. Curbs are significant obstacles for people in wheelchairs as well as bad drivers, and with this photo, Robert was expressing something significant to him that many of us might overlook.

Allowing Robert to capture what he wants is another challenge. What one sees from a wheelchair four feet off the ground differs from a walking person who can maneuver to shoot from different perspectives. His line of vision captures more often than not the backs of people and animals. He is working on a selection of images showing what so often he sees which is much different from what many of us observe.

Robert has gained confidence from his photography. Although he may not be boisterous, he has lost his overpowering shyness that he once had. His first show generated a great deal of hoopla, which he handled with smiles as opposed to being frozen in fear. Before this, Robert was neither comfortable being noticed nor being the center of attention of strangers.



Photos by Barb Lawton

Robert will be finished with school in June 2012, and what is ahead of him is uncertain. What is certain is that he will continue taking pictures from his own perspective.
— Patricia Wright

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December Print Competition Results

Assigned Topic: <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i>		
1	Ron Ginsburg	Making Music
2	Barb Lawton	Summer Fun
3	Phil Olivo	Girl with Hoop
HM	Pat McCormick	Looking Up
HM	Phil Olivo	Simple Times - Simple Pleasure
HM	Linda Wroble	Cheerios For Cheery Me
General		
1	Rob Near	Your Tax Dollars
2	Barb Lawton	Love Horse
3	Nancy Hueter	Concentration
4	Rebekah Sokol	Dragonfly
HM	Dale Winsor	Dance Frenzy
HM	Rob Near	Platt Cove Upper Falls
HM	Robert Coppola	Fall Reflections
HM	Ron Ginsburg	Sunset Along the Mohawk
Monochrome		
1	Doug Mitchell	untitled
2	Kim Koza	Tulips
3	Dale Winsor	Central Park
HM	John Saville	Lock 8 Early Flood Stage
HM	Rob Near	Moss Glen Falls
HM	Ron Ginsburg	Textures

Judge: Jim Craner

**Making Music by Ron Ginsburg** (1st place Assigned Print).

Happy New Year!

Member News

SPS member Bob Riccardo & Carol Donato of Altamont will have their 2nd show "Dirt Track Racing at Fonda Speedway" on display at the Guilderland Library for the month of January. The library is located at 2228 Western Avenue • Guilderland, New York. Library hours are Monday through Friday: 10 am to 9 PM ~ Saturday: 10 am to 5 PM ~ Sunday: 1 PM to 5 PM. A reception is planned and will be announced later. Their next scheduled showing is at the Bethlehem Library, Delmar, NY for the month of March.



Schenectady Photographic Society's meetings are held at the First United Methodist Church at 603 State St. in Schenectady, NY. Parking and entrance are at the rear of the building off Chapel St., a short one-way street off Nott Terrace. Additional information and directions on our website <http://www.schenectadyphotographicsociety.com/>



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